

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 00763 031431Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 031315Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7523

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0763

SUMMARY: FORMER FIGURE FROM NASSER ERA IN YEMEN INS
NOMINATED TO ARAB LEAGUE POST BY YARG.

1. ABDAL RAHMAN AL BEYDANI IS BACK IN SANA, GETTING
FULL PAGE TREATMENT IN OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER "AL-THAWRA"
FOR HIS ECONOMIC VIEWS AND SEEING LEADING FIGURES LIKE
PRESIDENT HAMDI AND MIN DEVEL IRYANI.

2. BEYDANI IS CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE HERE. AHMAD
AL HADDAD, WHO KNOWS HIM WELL FROM STUDENT DAYS IN
EGYPT, SAYS BEYDANI WAS PROPAGANDIST AGAINST IMAM ON
SAUT AL ARAB AFTER NASSER DISSOLVED THE UNION WITH
MUTAWWAKILITE KINGDOM IN 1965. PRESUMABLY AN
EDUCATED MAN -- HADDAD SAYS HE ACTUALLY FAILED HIS
LAW STUDIES IN EGYPT -- HE RETURNED RIGHT AFTER 1967
REVOLUTION TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER. BY 1968 HE HAD
BEEN STRIPPED OF HIS TITLES AND JOBS, PARTLY BECAUSE
(ACCORDING TO AHMED ABDO SAID) ZAYDIA OPPOSED
PROMINENCE OF SOMEONE FROM BEYDA (IN SOUTH YAR) AND
PARTLY BECAUSE BEYDANI PROVED TO BE AMBITIOUS,
POSTURING, COMPLETELY OPPORTUNISTIC.

3. HADDAD INSISTS BEYDANI WILL CONNECTED WITH
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PAGE 02 SANA 00763 031431Z

EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT, WHOSE WIFE WAS CLASSMATE OF
BEYDANI WIFE. DURING 60'S BEYDANI THUS GOT

YAR DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENTS (BEIRUT, BONN) THOROUGH
"YEMEN OFFICE" WHICH SADAT RAN FOR NASSER AT THAT TIME.
ALSO ACCORDING TO HADDAD, WHILE IN BONN BEYDANI
GOT HIMSELF AWARDED MAIL ORDER PH.D. IN ECONOMICS THROUGH
ERSATZ INSTITUTE.

4. AGAINST THIS UNLIKELY BACKGROUND, SANA WEEKLY
NEWSPAPER AL YEMEN ACCOUNCED THAT BEYDANI HAD BEEN NOMINATED BY
YARG TO POST OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS IN ARAB LEAGUE. NOMINATION, SAYS AL YEMEN,
HAD SUPPORT OF SOME FIFTEEN ARAB STATES INCLUDING
SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT, IRAQ, KUWAIT, LIBYA, SOMALIA, AND
THE GULF STATES.

COMMENT: AHMED ABDO SAID, WHILE SAYING BALDLY THAT
BEYDANI IS "CHARLATAN" ALSO SAYS THAT HE WILL BE
ANTI-AL AYNi AT TIME WHEN LATTER IS TRYING TO MOUNT
CHALLENGE TO YAR FROM CAIRO. YEMENIS BELIEVE,
NAIVELY OR OTHERWISE, THAT OLD BEYDANI PERSONAL
CONNECTION WITH SADAT WILL HELP CLIP AL-AYNI'S WINGS.
FINALLY, AS HADDAD POINTED OUT APPROVINGLY, "CAIRO
IS LONG WAY FROM YEMEN".
RANSOM

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